

a flexible system that is designed to meet any needs or schedule. It uses a monthly four-step program to teach necessary tools for character development. The first step of every month is a Character Bulletin. This provides a character quality, such as virtue, along with tools to help build it. The second step contains Supplements, including the Introducing "Character" Leadership Supplement, which provides additional resources for teaching others about the character quality, and Building "Character" Leadership Notes, which challenges those in positions of leadership to hold themselves to higher standards. The third step is called Character at Home, and provides ways to use the Character Bulletin Series at home. This step is particularly helpful for parents who want to play an active role in their child's development. The final part of the series is a Character Poster, a full color poster to remind people of the quality of the month. Recently a cooperative effort to promote Character Counts! began in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Their city-wide effort involves government personnel, businesses, churches, schools, and others in the community. We should celebrate this city-wide effort to educate people about character and implement the Character Counts! program in other communities nationwide.

Educating people about character and citizenship is crucial to create healthy communities. Years ago, as Chairman of the National Commission on Children, I worked hard to include an entire chapter in our comprehensive report called Creating a Moral Climate because I felt strongly about the issue. Everyone of us has an obligation to create such a climate for our family, our friends, and especially children in our communities.

Character Counts! provides this type of leadership and resources to support character education which will promote continuous growth and development. It is our responsibility to educate people, and I commend Character Counts! for providing a much needed educational service.●

FEDERAL PRISONER HEALTH CARE COPAYMENT ACT OF 1999

On May 27, 1999, the Senate passed S. 704, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to combat the over-utilization of prison health care services and control rising prisoner health care costs. The bill is as follows:

S. 704

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Federal Prisoner Health Care Copayment Act of 1999".

SEC. 2. HEALTH CARE FEES FOR PRISONERS IN FEDERAL INSTITUTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 303 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 4048. Fees for health care services for prisoners

"(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

"(1) the term 'account' means the trust fund account (or institutional equivalent) of a prisoner;

"(2) the term 'Director' means the Director of the Bureau of Prisons;

"(3) the term 'health care provider' means any person who is—

"(A) authorized by the Director to provide health care services; and

"(B) operating within the scope of such authorization;

"(4) the term 'health care visit'—

"(A) means a visit, as determined by the Director, initiated by a prisoner to an institutional or noninstitutional health care provider; and

"(B) does not include a visit initiated by a prisoner—

"(i) pursuant to a staff referral; or

"(ii) to obtain staff-approved follow-up treatment for a chronic condition; and

"(5) the term 'prisoner' means—

"(A) any individual who is incarcerated in an institution under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Prisons; or

"(B) any other individual, as designated by the Director, who has been charged with or convicted of an offense against the United States.

"(b) FEES FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director, in accordance with this section and with such regulations as the Director shall promulgate to carry out this section, may assess and collect a fee for health care services provided in connection with each health care visit requested by a prisoner.

"(2) EXCLUSION.—The Director may not assess or collect a fee under this section for preventative health care services, emergency services, prenatal care, diagnosis or treatment of contagious diseases, mental health care, or substance abuse treatment, as determined by the Director.

"(c) PERSONS SUBJECT TO FEE.—Each fee assessed under this section shall be collected by the Director from the account of—

"(1) the prisoner receiving health care services in connection with a health care visit described in subsection (b)(1); or

"(2) in the case of health care services provided in connection with a health care visit described in subsection (b)(1) that results from an injury inflicted on a prisoner by another prisoner, the prisoner who inflicted the injury, as determined by the Director.

"(d) AMOUNT OF FEE.—Any fee assessed and collected under this section shall be in an amount of not less than \$2.

"(e) NO CONSENT REQUIRED.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the consent of a prisoner shall not be required for the collection of a fee from the account of the prisoner under this section.

"(f) NO REFUSAL OF TREATMENT FOR FINANCIAL REASONS.—Nothing in this section may be construed to permit any refusal of treatment to a prisoner on the basis that—

"(1) the account of the prisoner is insolvent; or

"(2) the prisoner is otherwise unable to pay a fee assessed under this section.

"(g) USE OF AMOUNTS.—

"(1) RESTITUTION TO SPECIFIC VICTIMS.—Amounts collected by the Director under this section from a prisoner subject to an order of restitution issued pursuant to section 3663 or 3663A shall be paid to victims in accordance with the order of restitution.

"(2) ALLOCATION OF OTHER AMOUNTS.—Of amounts collected by the Director under this section from prisoners not subject to an order of restitution issued pursuant to section 3663 or 3663A—

"(A) 75 percent shall be deposited in the Crime Victims Fund established under section 1402 of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10601); and

"(B) 25 percent shall be available to the Attorney General for administrative expenses incurred in carrying out this section.

"(h) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Federal Prisoner Copayment Act of 1999, and annually thereafter, the Director shall submit to Congress a report, which shall include—

"(1) a description of the amounts collected under this section during the preceding 12-month period; and

"(2) an analysis of the effects of the implementation of this section, if any, on the nature and extent of health care visits by prisoners."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 303 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"4048. Fees for health care services for prisoners."

SEC. 3. HEALTH CARE FEES FOR FEDERAL PRISONERS IN NON-FEDERAL INSTITUTIONS.

Section 4013 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(c) HEALTH CARE FEES FOR FEDERAL PRISONERS IN NON-FEDERAL INSTITUTIONS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding amounts paid under subsection (a)(3), a State or local government may assess and collect a reasonable fee from the trust fund account (or institutional equivalent) of a Federal prisoner for health care services, if—

"(A) the prisoner is confined in a non-Federal institution pursuant to an agreement between the Federal Government and the State or local government;

"(B) the fee—

"(i) is authorized under State law; and

"(ii) does not exceed the amount collected from State or local prisoners for the same services; and

"(C) the services—

"(i) are provided within or outside of the institution by a person who is licensed or certified under State law to provide health care services and who is operating within the scope of such license;

"(ii) constitute a health care visit within the meaning of section 4048(a)(4) of this title; and

"(iii) are not preventative health care services, emergency services, prenatal care, diagnosis or treatment of contagious diseases, mental health care, or substance abuse treatment.

"(2) NO REFUSAL OF TREATMENT FOR FINANCIAL REASONS.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed to permit any refusal of treatment to a prisoner on the basis that—

"(A) the account of the prisoner is insolvent; or

"(B) the prisoner is otherwise unable to pay a fee assessed under this subsection."

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000

On May 27, 1999, the bill, S. 1059, was passed by the Senate. The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1059

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000".